

Serial No.: 09/814,590

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 15, 16 and 20 have been allowed.

The Examiner has also indicated that claims 5, 6 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 10 has been rewritten in this manner. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the features of claims 1, 2 and 5. Claims 2 and 5 have been canceled. The subject matter of intervening claims 3 and 4 has not been included in amended claim 1, but it is submitted that the allowable aspects of claim 5 do not rely on the subject matter of claims 3 and 4. Accordingly, claims 3 and 4 have been left in dependent form. For consistency, claims 3 and 6 have been amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 8-9, 19 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,978,420 to Koslov in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,236,283, also to Koslov. As indicated above, to expedite prosecution of the present application claim 1 has been amended to include subject matter indicated as being allowable, claim 2 has been canceled, claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1 and claims 4, 8 and 9 continue to depend from claim 3.

Claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 15 and to delete subject matter that overlaps with claim 15.

Claim 21 has been canceled.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is

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determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988, our Order No. E0876.

Respectfully submitted,

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